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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, April 11, 2007

Iowa Man Indicted Federally in Minnesota for a Sex Crime Involving a Minor

Minneapolis - An indictment has been returned in federal court in Minneapolis, charging an Iowa man with traveling to Minnesota with the intent to engage in sexually explicit conduct with a minor. The Indictment against Richard Alan Lang, age 44, of West Branch, Iowa, was filed late this afternoon.

According to the complaint in this case, Lang initiated Internet conversations with an undercover officer during February and March of this year. During those conversations, Lang allegedly discussed engaging in sexual activity with that officer, who he believed was a fourteen-year-old boy. Subsequently, Lang allegedly suggested and planned a meeting with the "boy" for March 14, 2007, in Robbinsdale, Minnesota. According to the complaint, Lang's purpose for the meeting was to teach the "boy" about sex through engaging in sexual activity with him.

When Lang arrived for that scheduled meeting at a popular children's restaurant in Robbinsdale, however, he was arrested by law enforcement officers.

(MORE)

The case against Lang is the result of an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Minnesota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, and the Robbinsdale Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Tracy T. Braun and is part of Project Safe Childhood, a national multi-jurisdictional effort by law enforcement and community groups to make the Internet safe for children.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probably cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.